

Serial No. 09/526,037

Docket No.: KCC-14,899

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A process for cutting a material into pieces having a predetermined target length, comprising the steps of:  
feeding a continuous web of the material from a feed roll to a cut-off module;  
measuring tension in the web;  
using the cut-off module to cut a piece of the material from the continuous web;  
measuring an actual length of the piece of material;  
comparing the actual length of the piece of material to the target length; and  
adjusting the tension in the web prior to the web encountering the feed roll in response to any difference between the actual length and the target length.
2. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 1 further comprising the step of placing the piece of material on a second web of material.
3. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 2 wherein the actual length of the piece of material is measured prior to the piece's placement on the second web.
4. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 2 wherein the actual length of the piece of material is measured after the piece is placed on the second web.
5. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 1 further comprising the step of placing the piece of material on a conveyor.

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6. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 5 wherein the actual length of the piece of material is measured prior to the piece's placement on the conveyor.
7. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 5 wherein the actual length of the piece of material is measured after the piece is placed on the conveyor.
8. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the tension in the web is measured prior to the web encountering the feed roll.
9. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 1 wherein the tension in the web is measured between the feed roll and the cut-off module.
10. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the step of measuring the actual length includes producing a first signal when the piece is sensed, and producing a second signal when the piece is not sensed.
11. (Original) The process of Claim 10 wherein the first signal triggers a device to capture a starting count and the second signal triggers the device to capture an ending count.
12. (Original) The process of Claim 11 wherein the device determines a total number of encoder counts and converts the number of encoder counts into the actual length.
13. (Original) The process of Claim 12 wherein a non-zero difference between the actual length and the target length triggers the tension adjusting step.
14. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the tension-adjusting step includes the step of modulating the web tension such that the web tension is kept to a minimum.

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15. (Currently Amended) A process for cutting an elastic material into pieces having a predetermined target length, comprising the steps of:

feeding a continuous web of the elastic material from a feed roll to a cut-off module;

measuring tension in the web prior to the web encountering the feed roll;

using the cut-off module to cut a piece of the elastic material from the continuous web;

measuring an actual length of the piece of elastic material, wherein a first signal is produced when the piece is sensed and a second signal is produced when the piece is not sensed;

comparing the actual length of the piece of elastic material to the target length; and

adjusting the feed roll's speed in response to any difference between the actual length and the target length.

16. (Original) The process of Claim 15, further comprising the step of maintaining the web tension at a minimum immediately preceding the feed roll.

17. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 15 further comprising the step of placing the piece of material on a second web of material.

18. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 17 wherein the actual length of the piece of material is measured prior to the piece's placement on the second web.

19. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 17 wherein the actual length of the piece of material is measured after the piece is placed on the second web.

20. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 15 further comprising the step of placing the piece of material on a conveyor.

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21. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 20 wherein the actual length of the piece of material is measured prior to the piece's placement on the conveyor.

22. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 20 wherein the actual length of the piece of material is measured after the piece is placed on the conveyor.

Claim 23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim ~~[[23]]~~ 15 wherein the first signal triggers a device to capture a starting count and the second signal triggers the device to capture an ending count.

25. (Original) The process of Claim 24 wherein the device determines a total number of encoder counts and converts the number of encoder counts into the actual length.

26. (Original) The process of Claim 25 wherein a non-zero difference between the actual length and the target length triggers the feed roll speed adjusting step.

Claims 27-39 (Canceled)